

Review of the Week's News from the Capitals of Europe

BERLIN NIGHT-CITY OF THE WORLD IS THREATENED WITH LID

Authorities up in Arms Against Rapid Spread of Vice Through International Advertising.

BAD CHARACTERS OF THE EARTH ATTRACTED

Effort to Out do Gay Paris in Naughtiness has Taken Stolid Germans to Edge of Precipice.

(By the Associated Press) Berlin, March 14.—For years Berlin strove to become the greatest all-night city in the world. Now when it boasts that distinction there are widespread appeals for putting on the brakes.

Out of the 443 members of the Prussian diet, 379 have backed the assertion that the city is a den of vice, and have petitioned the minister of the interior to "ward off the dangers to which the bodies and souls of youths are exposed."

The forty members of the Progressive party in the diet have not joined in the petition, but their spokesman declared that in a general way it expressed their desires.

Baron Schenck zu Schweinsberg, speaking for the Conservatives, made a bitter attack upon conditions in Berlin. The number of dissolute women, he said, was increasing tremendously, with all the evils that follow in their train. "Berlin by night" had become an advertising slogan, known throughout the world. As a matter of fact, Berlin by night was "the darkest spot in Prussia and in the German Empire." Cabarets, dance halls and dangerous drinking places were destroying the youth, and when a move was made against them the cry went up that the police were treating business. The baron also attacked the cinematograph as a factor in demoralization.

A Free Conservative representative, Herr Vester, seconded Baron zu Schweinsberg's statements. The city's night program, he said, is made up as follows: From 8 to 11 o'clock, theaters, 11 to 2, wine restaurants or dance halls, 2 to 4, bars, and 4 to 6, "night resorts." The advocates of all-night revelry, he said, defended their attitude by declaring that Berlin is one of the world's great cities and must cater to visitors from abroad. They overlook the fact that the public places in London close at midnight and on Paris boulevards at 1 o'clock.

"He who knows our night life knows what demoralization it causes among our youth," said the deputy.

Representatives of the Clerical and National Liberal parties also attacked existing conditions. Dr. Schroeder of the National Liberals deplored the fact that these conditions were not confined to Berlin. The smaller cities, too, are becoming infected, he said.

Johann von Dallwitz, minister of the interior, declared that there were greater obstacles in the way of a successful campaign against the dangers of present conditions. He said the

government was trying to reduce the number of doubtful resorts and had actually effected a considerable reduction in the number of places holding all-night licenses. It was hoped eventually to abolish entirely the so-called "animation bars," where female waitresses urge the guests to drink as much and as often as possible, and he expected much from the new measure about to be laid before the Reichstag for the regulation of the liquor traffic throughout the empire.

No earnest defender of the night life of German cities in all its phases has as yet replied to the attacks in the diet, but one apologist has directed attention to a reason justifying later hours for restaurants and cafes in Germany than in other countries. This is the manner in which the working day is divided. The average business house suspends operations from one and a half to two and a half hours at noon, when the big meal of the day is taken, and close out at eight. This forces the employees to work into the evening, and if they wish to visit theater, moving picture show or concert, they must go out from their place of business without pausing for supper. The after-theater supper is not a luxury for them, but a necessity, and they make up a big part of the crowd that fills the public eating and drinking places from 11 until 2 o'clock.